IN THE CLAIMS

    Please amend the claims as follows.

    1(Currently amended).   A computer-implemented method for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a content object, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities and the content object being defined by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the content object, the method comprising the steps of:

    adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list <u>indicating the content entities from the</u> data <u>repository specified by the user for the content object</u> to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in ~~the~~ <u>each</u> content objects for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein ~~the~~ designations of prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

    examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity,

    and if so,

    <u>automatical</u>ly adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list in ~~accordance with~~ <u>direct response to user interaction initiating</u> the addition or removal of

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the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the content object.

2(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the prerequisites are conditional.

3(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.

4(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 3, in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

5(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 3, further comprising the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

6(Currently amended). A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a content object, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and

stored in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities

being prerequisites to others of the content entities and the content object being defined by a list

indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the content object,

the method comprising the steps of:

adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list <u>indicating the content</u>

<u>entities from the data repository specified by the user</u> for the <u>content object</u> to add or remove the

selected content entity to or from the content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is

associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in <u>each</u> ~~the~~ content objects for

which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein ~~the~~ designations of

prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of

the individual file objects containing the content entities,

examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the

selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity,

and if so,

<u>automatically</u> adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from

the list in ~~accordance with~~ <u>direct response to user interaction initiating</u> the addition or removal of

the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the

content object.

7(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 6, wherein one or more of

the prerequisites are conditional.

8(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 6, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.

9(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 8, in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, the method further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

10(Previously presented). The program storage device of claim 8, wherein the method further comprises the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

11(Currently amended). A system for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a content object, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities and the content object being defined by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the content object, the system comprising:

　　means for adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list <u>indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user for the content object</u> to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in <u>each</u> ~~the~~ content

objects for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein ~~the~~ designations of

prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of

the individual file objects containing the content entities,

      means for examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and

determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that

content entity, and

      means for <u>automatically</u> adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities

to or from the list in ~~accordance with~~ <u>direct response to user interaction initiating</u> the addition or

removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or

from the content object.

      12(Original). The system of claim 11, wherein one or more of the prerequisites are

conditional.

      13(Original). The system of claim 11, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite

are defined in one or more rules.

      14(Previously presented). The system of claim 13, further comprising means for reducing

the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules in the case of more than one of the rules

pertaining to the same prerequisite.

15(Original).   The system of claim 13, further comprising means for rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.